What is claimed is:

1. A method for maintaining even burn-in in a display unit having a plurality of display elements, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying active display elements and non-active display elements on the display unit when video content is displayed on the display unit;

monitoring an aging of the active display elements;

detecting when the display unit is turned off;

waiting for a predetermined time period; and

displaying a corrective image on the identified non-active display elements until the aging of the identified non-active display elements matches the aging of the identified active display elements.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying includes the steps of:

detecting an aspect ratio of the video content;

detecting an aspect ratio of the display unit;

comparing the video content aspect ratio to the display unit aspect ratio; and

determining that the non-active display elements exist if the aspect ratio of the video content does not match the aspect ratio of the display unit.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the aspect ratio of the video content is 4:3 and the aspect ratio of the display unit is 16:9.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the aspect ratio of the video content is 16:9 and the aspect ratio of the display unit is 4:3.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of monitoring includes the step of:

tracking the length of time that the active display elements are active.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined time period is set by a user.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined time period is derived from a user's viewing habits.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined time period is one hour.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

terminating the corrective image display when an interruption event occurs.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the interruption event is a user turning the display unit on.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the interruption event is a scheduled corrective image display stop time.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the stop time is set by the user.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the scheduled stop time is derived from the user's viewing habits.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the corrective image is displayed at one of a 15 IRE, 30 IRE, and 60 IRE luminance.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the corrective image for a first time period is displayed at 15 IRE luminance, for a second time period is displayed at 30 IRE luminance, and for a third time period is displayed at 60 IRE luminance.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the corrective image is a pair of side panels.

17. A system for equalizing display regions on a display unit, the system comprising:

means for identifying an active display region and an inactive display region on the display unit;

means for tracking a length of time that the active display region remains active;

means for detecting when the active display region becomes inactive;

means for initiating the display of a corrective image on the inactive display region after a predetermined time period; and

means for terminating the display of the corrective image after an occurrence of an interruption event.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time period is one hour.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time period is set by the user.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time period is derived from a user's viewing habits.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein the interruption event is a user turning the display unit on.

22. The system of claim 17, wherein the interruption event is a scheduled corrective image display stop time.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the stop time is set by the user.

24. The system of claim 22, wherein the stop time is derived from the user's viewing habits.

25. The system of claim 17, wherein the corrective image is displayed at one of a 15 IRE, 30 IRE, and 60 IRE luminance.

26. The system of claim 17, wherein the corrective image for a first time period is displayed at 15 IRE luminance, for a second time period is displayed at 30 IRE luminance, and for a third time period is displayed at 60 IRE luminance.

27. The system of claim 17, wherein the corrective image is a pair of side panels.